

No. R-230. House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont's correctional personnel and recognizing National Correctional Officers Week in Vermont.

(H.C.R.157)

Offered by: Representatives Dolan of Essex, Anthony of Barre City, Arrison of Weathersfield, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Brownell of Pownal, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burditt of West Rutland, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Coffey of Guilford, Emmons of Springfield, Gannon of Wilmington, Garofano of Essex, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Houghton of Essex, Howard of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Lefebvre of Orange, Martel of Waterford, Masland of Thetford, McCoy of Poultney, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Murphy of Fairfax, Nicoll of Ludlow, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Scheu of Middlebury, Sims of Craftsbury, Squirrell of Underhill, Strong of Albany, Sullivan of Dorset, Taylor of Colchester, Toof of St. Albans Town, Walker of Swanton, White of Bethel, White of Hartford, Williams of Granby, Wood of Waterbury, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, the professional responsibilities of frontline correctional personnel are always demanding, as they must interact daily with an involuntarily incarcerated population, and

Whereas, Vermont's correctional facilities are institutions with large populations confined to a restricted space, and, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of onsite employee and inmate infections periodically increased to high levels, Vermont was, nevertheless, the only state not to lose an incarcerated person or staff member due to COVID-19, and

Whereas, aside from the challenges of COVID-19, the State's frontline correctional workforce has faced significant staffing shortages, and, despite this recognized personnel shortfall, these dedicated State employees have stepped up, on occasion at great personal sacrifice, to provide the essential administrative and protective services required to operate Vermont's prisons in line with the State's correctional policy goals, and

Whereas, the week of May 1, 2022 to May 7, 2022 is National Correctional Officers Week, a commemoration established in 1984, and presents an ideal opportunity to honor these unsung heroes of Vermont's correctional system, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Vermont's correctional personnel and recognizes National Correctional Officers Week in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Commissioner of Corrections Nicholas Deml, and to the Vermont State Employees Association.